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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State
NO: 2046, MAY 9.

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 2046, BONN PRIORITY 1840, INFORMATION LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS, USAREUR UNNUMBERED.

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WEST BERLIN PRESS MAY 8 GAVE HEAVY EMPHASIS ADENAUER PRESS CONFERENCE PREVIOUS DAY, MORNING PAPERS LEADING FRONT PAGE WITH THREE AND FOUR COLUMN HEADLINES, DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE SPACE CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS CONCERNING US-SOVET TALKS ON BERLIN. DIE WELT (IND), UNDER HEADLINE "CHANCELLOR IN BERLIN: NO HOPE FOR RESULTS IN EAST-WEST TALKS," LED OFF STORY WITH ADENAUER'S EXPRESSIONS OF SKEPTICISM AND HIS STATEMENT THAT HE HADN'T SLIGHTEST HOPE FOR RESULTS FROM TALKS AND PREFERRED EXISTING SITUATION. TAGESSPIEGEL (IND) HEADLINED: "ADENAUER HOLDS CONTROL PROJECT IMPRACTICABLE," AND GAVE TWO FULL COLUMNS ON FRONT PAGE TO PRESS CONFERENCE. BOTH DIE WELT AND TAGESSPIEGEL CARRIED SEPARATE PAGE-ONE STORIES ON ADDITIONAL FEDREP ECONOMIC AID FOR BERLIN, ANNOUNCED BY CHANCELLOR. MORGENPOST (IND), UNDER HEADLINE, "ULBRICHT CANNOT BE RECOGNIZED," LED OFF BY 2^{1/2} REPORTING ADENAUER DECLARED WITH GREAT CLARITY THAT ANY RECOGNITION OF PANKOW REGIME WAS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED. OTHER PAPERS' HEADLINES AND NEWS STORIES EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC AID RATHER THAN CHANCELLOR'S VIEWS ON BERLIN TALKS, BUT GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO LATTER IN SAME OR SEPARATE STORIES.

(3) *Information by [unclear]*

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-2- 2046, MAY 9 FROM BERLIN

TELEGRAF (PRO-SPD), FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED FIVE-COLUMN PAGE ONE HEADLINE "MORE CASH FOR ALL BERLINERS -- FEWER TAXES," AND SEPARATE STORY PAGE ONE CONCERNED WITH BERLIN TALKS CARRIED UNDER LESSER HEADLINE, "CHANCELLOR WARNS; PATIENCE."

EDITORIAL COMMENT MAY 8 ON ADENAUER VISIT AND ON MAY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON (1) IMPRESSIVE APPEARANCE MADE BY "THE OLD MAN"; (2) SKEPTICISM HE EXPRESSED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ACCESS AUTHORITY; (3) HIS APPARENT PREFERENCE FOR RETENTION OF STATUS QUO AS OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATIONS; AND (4) CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE BASED ON UNITY ACHIEVED AT ATHENS NATO MEETING.

TAGESSPIEGEL COMMENTED THAT CHANCELLOR, WHO HAD RETURNED FROM LAKE COMO REJUVENATED, DEMONSTRATED SUPERIOR POISE IN DISCUSSING AND JUDGING FACTS OF POLITICAL LIFE. PAPER NOTED HE PRESENTED NEW ARGUMENT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL ACCESS AUTHORITY, NAMELY, THAT THREE NEUTRALS MIGHT NOT WANT ASSUME EXPOSED ROLE IN EAST-WEST CONFLICT. TAGESSPIEGEL TERMED THIS PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT WHICH UP TO PRESENT HAD NOT OCCURRED TO ANYONE BUT ADENAUER. DER TAG (CDU) RAN EDITORIAL IN PRAISE ADENAUER POINTING UP HIS DOUBTS THAT NEUTRALS WOULD BE WILLING SERVE ON IAA, BUT ADDED THAT HE WAS SURPRISINGLY FIRM IN HIS CONFIDENCE IN US. TAG EMPHASIZED THAT ADENAUER HAD CONCEPTION OF FUTURE WHICH SURPASSES DAY-TO-DAY NEGOTIATIONS AND THOUGHTS; THIS REFLECTED IN HIS BELIEF THERE WILL ONE DAY BE UNDERSTANDING WITH USSR. IN VIEW ALLEGED LACK OF RESULTS OF LAST NINE MONTHS SOUNDINGS, PAPER EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING ADENAUER'S PREFERENCE FOR STATUS QUO RATHER THAN CONTINUATION FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR POSSIBILITY OF NEW AGREEMENT. MORGENPOST EDITORIAL OPINED ADENAUER OPTIMISM BASED NOT ON ANY RESULTS OF US-SOV EXPLORATORY TALKS BUT ON FACT ATHENS NATO MEETING HAD GIVEN NEW EVIDENCE INNER STABILITY WESTERN ALLIANCE. CHANCELLOR HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAD LONG VIEW, ABILITY AND WILL TO PREVENT ANY HARM (TO BERLIN). ALL THAT BERLINERS WISHED WAS THAT HE WOULD VISIT GERMAN CAPITAL MORE OFTEN.

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-3- 2046, MAY 9 FROM BERLIN

NACHTDEPESCHE (PRO-SPD) ATTACKED CHANCELLOR'S VIEW ON NEGOTIATIONS EXPRESSED AT PRESS CONFERENCE AS "ANTIQUATED."

WEST BERLIN PAPERS MORNING MAY 9 GAVE TOP PLAY TO ADENAUER'S STATEMENTS BEFORE FOREIGN PRESS CLUB MAY 8 AND WASHINGTON REACTION TO CHANCELLOR'S MAY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE. TAGESSPIEGEL, UNDER HEADLINE "RESENTMENT OVER ADENAUER'S BERLIN STATEMENTS," REPORTED THAT US OFFICIALS EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" OVER ADENAUER'S STATEMENT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION BERLIN TALKS AND HIS OPINION THAT US PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF BERLIN ACCESS COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. PAPER SAID THAT STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED BONN OBJECTIONS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED BLOCK OR DELAY EXPLORATORY TALKS ON BERLIN. US GOVT HAD CHALLENGED ADENAUER PRESENT BETTER SUGGESTIONS IN EVENT HE BELIEVED, AS HE INDICATED MONDAY IN BERLIN, THAT AMERICAN PLANS FOR ENSURING ACCESS TO WEST BERLIN NOT PRACTICABLE. ACCOUNT THEN NOTED THAT LONDON FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR US BUT WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ADENAUER STATEMENT. FRENCH GOVT HAD NOT TAKEN POSITION ON ADENAUER STATEMENT BUT FRENCH OFFICIALS MADE NO SECRET OF FACT THAT FRANCE SUPPORTS ADENAUER'S OBJECTIONS.

MORGENPOST CARRIED STORY UNDER HEADLINE, "ADENAUER DECLARES: TALKS ON BERLIN USELESS," AND REPORTED CHANCELLOR HAD EMPHASIZED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED TO NO RESULTS SHOULD NOT BE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY. PAPER SAID THAT IN VIEW STATEMENTS MADE BY SCHROEDER, VON BRENTANO AND US SECSTATE RE BERLIN, IT BECAME EVIDENT YESTERDAY THAT THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON WESTERN POLICY. MORGENPOST THEN CARRIED SUMMARIES REMARKS MADE BY ALL THREE YESTERDAY AS WELL AS WASHINGTON REACTION TO ADENAUER STATEMENT.

DER TAG, UNDER CAPTION "BERLIN DECLARATION BY CHANCELLOR CAUSES INTERNATIONAL ECHO; US STATE DEPT REACTS," REPORTED ADENAUER

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-4- 2046, MAY 9 FROM BERLIN

HAD REPEATED OPINION THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME BERLIN NEGOTIATIONS AND THESE SHOULD NOT BE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY. TAG, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED THAT CHANCELLOR REJECTED ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE WAS CRISIS BETWEEN US AND FEDREP.

TELEGRAF ACCOUNT LED OFF WITH ASSERTION THAT NATO UNITY ACHIEVED THREE DAYS AGO, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BONN ON FUTURE MOVES RE BERLIN QUESTION, HAD RECEIVED OBVIOUS BLOW BY ADENAUER'S DECLARATIONS DURING BERLIN VISIT. PAPER SAID THAT US HAD REACTED WITH UNMISTAKABLE CLARITY, STATING THAT EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH SOVS WOULD BE CONTINUED AND US STILL CONVINCED ITS BERLIN POLICY BASICALLY CORRECT. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN BONN, US GOVT WILL OFFICIALLY ASK ADENAUER EXPLAIN BASIS FOR REASONS HIS PESSIMISTIC JUDGMENT, PAPER SAID. TELEGRAF, UNDER HEADLINE "SCHROEDER THINKS OTHERWISE," ALSO REPORTED THAT LATTER'S REMARKS TO CDU/CSU FRAKTION SHOWED VISIBLE DIVERSIONS FROM CHANCELLOR'S VIEW.

ONLY EDITORIAL MORNING PRESS WAS IN TELEGRAF, WHICH POINTED OUT ADENAUER HAD RETURNED TO HIS "TOUGH, STERILE" ATTITUDE RE POSSIBILITIES OF DEALING WITH SOVS. COMMENT NOTED THAT ANNOYED TONE OF STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN SHOWS THAT CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON HEADED TOWARD NEW CLIMAX WHICH IS CAUSING CONCERN. WASHINGTON'S REQUEST FOR BONN'S SUGGESTIONS IS COMPLETELY JUSTIFIED SINCE ADENAUER'S ANSWER AS TO WHAT WOULD COME AFTER EVENTUAL COLLAPSE US-SOV TALKS, BETRAYS NONCHALANCE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN CONTEXT BERLIN PROBLEM.

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